

Appl. No.: 09/848,519
Amdt. dated 08/18/2005
Reply to Official Action of June 27, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing a process of an organization comprising:
 - acquiring information concerning the organization and the process;
 - developing a plurality of preliminary findings based upon the information, wherein each preliminary finding has an associated characterization selected from a group consisting of a strength and a weakness;
 - voting for a conclusion associated with each preliminary finding, wherein said voting occurs electronically via a processor adapted to process a plurality of votes resulting therefrom, and wherein the conclusion associated with each preliminary finding is selected from a group consisting of an agreement with the preliminary finding and a disagreement with the preliminary finding; and
 - developing a plurality of final findings, wherein each final finding has the characterization, and wherein the plurality of final findings are based upon said voting for the conclusion associated with each preliminary finding.
2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said acquiring information comprises acquiring a first set of information from a plurality of questionnaires, and acquiring a second set of information from at least one of a plurality of interviews and at least one document review, and wherein developing the plurality of preliminary findings is based upon the first set of information and the second set of information.
3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 further comprising collating the first set of information after acquiring the first set of information from the plurality of questionnaires, wherein said collating comprises identifying at least one of a preliminary finding and information for further review, and wherein said acquiring a second set of information comprises acquiring the second set of information at least partially based upon the information for further review.

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4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said voting comprises voting by a plurality of participants for a conclusion based upon each preliminary finding, and wherein said voting occurs anonymously.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 4, wherein said voting comprises voting by at least one assessor and at least one member of the organization.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said voting further comprises voting for a valuation associated with each preliminary finding, wherein the valuation associated with each preliminary finding is selected from a group consisting of an agreement with the characterization of the preliminary finding and a disagreement with the associated characterization of the preliminary finding, and wherein said developing the plurality of final findings are further based upon said voting for the valuation based upon the characterization associated with each preliminary finding.

7. (Original) A computer program product for assessing a process of an organization, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code portions stored therein, the computer-readable program portions comprising:

a first executable portion for acquiring information concerning the organization and the process;

a second executable portion for presenting a plurality of developed preliminary findings, wherein each preliminary finding has an associated characterization selected from a group consisting of a strength and a weakness, and wherein the plurality of preliminary findings are based upon the information;

a third executable portion for voting for a conclusion associated with each preliminary finding, and wherein the conclusion associated with each preliminary finding is selected from a group consisting of an agreement with the preliminary finding and a disagreement with the preliminary finding; and

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a fourth executable portion for presenting a plurality of developed final findings, wherein each final finding has an associated characterization selected from the group consisting of a strength and a weakness, and wherein the plurality of final findings are based upon the voting for the conclusion associated with each preliminary finding.

8. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 7, wherein said first executable portion is adapted to acquire a first set of information from a plurality of questionnaires, and a second set of information from at least one of a plurality of interviews and at least one document review, and wherein said second executable portion is adapted to present a plurality of developed preliminary findings based upon the first set of information and the second set of information.

9. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 8, wherein said first executable portion is further adapted to collate the first set of information after acquiring the first set of information from the plurality of questionnaires, wherein said first executable portion collates the first set of information by identifying at least one of a preliminary finding and information for further review, and wherein said first executable portion is adapted to acquire the second set of information at least partially based upon the information for further review.

10. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 7, wherein said third executable portion is adapted for a plurality of participants to vote for a conclusion based upon each preliminary finding such that the vote of each participant is anonymous.

11. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 10, wherein said third executable portion is adapted for at least one assessor and at least one member of the organization to vote for the conclusion.

12. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 7, wherein said third executable portion is further adapted to vote for a valuation associated with each preliminary

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finding, wherein the valuation of each preliminary finding is selected from a group consisting of an agreement with the associated characterization of the preliminary finding and a disagreement with the associated characterization of the preliminary finding, and wherein the plurality of final findings further are further based upon the voting for the valuation based upon the associated characterization of each preliminary finding.

13. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 7, wherein said first executable portion is adapted to at least partially acquire information via a wide area network (WAN), wherein said second executable portion is adapted to present the plurality of developed preliminary findings via the WAN, and wherein said third executable portion is adapted for voting via the WAN.

14. (Original) A computer program product according to Claim 13, wherein the WAN comprises the Internet.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for developing at least one assessment of a process of an organization, wherein each of the at least one assessments has an associated characterization selected from a group consisting of a strength and a weakness, said method comprising:

acquiring information concerning the organization and the process;

developing a plurality of preliminary findings based upon the information, wherein each preliminary finding has an associated characterization;

voting for a valuation associated with each preliminary finding, wherein said voting occurs electronically via a processor adapted to process a plurality of votes resulting therefrom, and wherein the valuation is selected from a group consisting of an agreement with the characterization of the preliminary finding and a disagreement with the characterization of the preliminary finding; and

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developing the at least one assessment, wherein each assessment has an associated characterization, and wherein the associated characterization of each assessment is based upon said voting for the valuation associated with each preliminary finding.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 15, wherein said acquiring information comprises acquiring a first set of information from a plurality of questionnaires, and acquiring a second set of information from at least one of a group consisting of a plurality of interviews and at least one document review, and wherein developing the plurality of preliminary findings is based upon the first set of information and the second set of information.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 further comprising collating the first set of information after acquiring the first set of information from the plurality of questionnaires, wherein said collating comprises identifying at least one of a preliminary finding and information for further review, and wherein said acquiring a second set of information comprises acquiring the second set of information at least partially based upon the information for further review.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 15, wherein said voting comprises voting by a plurality of participants for a conclusion based upon each preliminary finding, and where said voting occurs anonymously.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 18, wherein said voting comprises voting by at least one assessor and at least one member of the organization.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 15, wherein said voting further comprises voting for a conclusion associated each preliminary finding, wherein the conclusion of each preliminary finding is selected from a group consisting of an agreement with the preliminary finding and a disagreement with the preliminary finding, and wherein said

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developing the at least one assessment is further based upon said voting for the conclusion associated with each preliminary finding.